



No. 2

XENOZOIC TALES

\$2.00
\$2.50 Canada



MARK SCHULTZ
© 1987

PRECAMBRIAN TIME

PERIOD

CAMBRIAN

ORDOVICIAN

SILURIAN

DEVONIAN

MISSISSIPPIAN

PENNSYLVANIAN

PERMIAN

TRIASSIC

JURASSIC

CRETACEOUS

TERTIARY

QUATERNARY

MILLIONS OF
YEARS AGO

570

500

435

410

360

330

290

240

205

140

65

2

0

Some think the seeds of the Cenozoic's cataclysmic demise were sown as early as the eighteenth century. What is known is that by 1987 A.D., the series of geological upheavals that would signal the unprecedented fall of an era had already begun.

Although the enormous pattern and unfortunate cause behind the global catastrophe would not be discovered until many years later, by the early twenty-first century, mankind had begun its retreat from an increasingly inhospitable surface to the safety of vast subterranean shelters.

By 2020 A.D., the churning, spitting Earth came to a boil. Billions died and entire species were consumed. The few surviving humans huddled in their scattered iron and steel tombs and waited...

Four hundred and fifty years after it had sealed itself off, mankind returned to the daylight, and was greeted by a radically altered world...A world that logically should not exist...A world fully populated by an unprecedented, eclectic ecosystem!

Now, come with us through beauty and terror, mystery and paradox. Come with us to the...

XENOZOIC ERA

Editor

DAVE SCHREINER

Letters

DENISE PROWELL

First & third story inks

STEVE STILES

Production

JAN MANWEILER

Cover color

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Publisher

DENIS KITCHEN

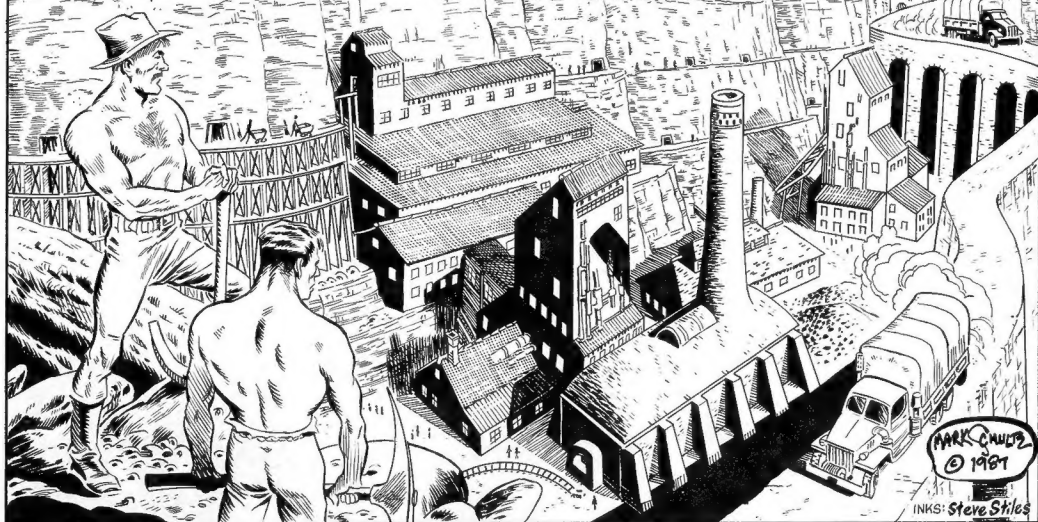
Writer & Artist

MARK SCHULTZ

XENOZOIC TALES No. 2, April 1987. Published bi-monthly by Kitchen Sink Press, Inc., No. 2 Swamp Rd., Princeton WI 54968. Entire contents copyright © 1987 by Mark Schultz. All rights reserved. Any resemblance to any person living or dead is unintentional. Price: \$2.00 U.S.; \$2.80 Canada. **Letters:** We welcome correspondence, and we did indeed get some good ones for this issue. Keep it up, we want No. 3's letters to be even better. **Retailers:** contact us for distribution information. **Collectors and readers:** Write us for free catalog of our other fine books, magazines, comics, posters, buttons, etc. available. **Watch for Xenozoic Tales No. 3** in June, in which Jack and Hannah meet some new faces in some old places! Printed in U.S.A.

ROGUE

JACK "CADILLAC" TENREC,
CONTRACTED TO TRANSPORT
MINERS AND COPPER, ARRIVES
AT THE CALHOON MINES
LATE IN THE DAY.



JACK! BOY IS IT
GOOD TO SEE YOU!
GET ME OUT OF
HERE!

MUSTAPHA
CAIRO!



NOT ENOUGH WORK
TO KEEP AN OLD
ENGINEER BUSY?

HEY, I FINISHED
THE SMELTER AT LEAST
A MONTH AGO, ALTHOUGH
OUT HERE NO ONE
KEEPS TRACK.





THE MATERIAL LOSS HAS BEEN ENORMOUS... AND LAST WEEK WE LOST TWO MEN WHO HAD STRAYED TOO FAR FROM SHELTER.

WE NEED AN EXPERIENCED HUNTER TO DISPATCH THIS MURDEROUS BRU...

AH, GET OFF IT, STRUNK...



...THIS MINE'S BEEN OPEN FOR YEARS WITH NO ANIMAL PROBLEMS. THINGS LIKE THIS DON'T HAPPEN FOR NO REASON. THE SHIVAT HAD TO BE PROVOKED. SOMEONE TOOK A SHOT AT HIM!

WELL, POSSIBLY ONE OF THE MEN MAY HAVE BEEN SURPRISED AND...



YEAH, RIGHT. AND I SUPPOSE IT'S A COINCIDENCE THAT SHIVAT GONADS BRING IN MORE PER OUNCE THAN ANYTHING ELSE ON THE BLACK MARKET!



DON'T USE THAT TONE, TENREC! WE... THAT IS DIRECTOR WISTER... GETS TOP PRODUCTION OUT OF THIS MINE/ HE SUPPLIES ALL THE CITY'S COPPER!



HE DOESN'T HAVE TO LISTEN TO YOUR...

DON'T KID YOURSELF... THIS MINE OOOZES COPPER. ANY MUCKER COULD RUN IT.

BUT IF YOU WANT YOUR MESS CLEANED UP, GET ME A GANG TOGETHER.



WHEW! WHAT A SPINELESS...

HEY, YOU HAVEN'T MET THE WASSOON YET! SHE CAME UP THE COAST NOT LONG AGO AND TOOK A PERVERSE INTEREST IN THE CITY. LORD KNOWS WHY, BUT SHE SIGNED ON FOR THIS JAUNT.



HEY HANNAH DUNDEE! IT'S HIGH TIME YOU WERE USEFUL!

C'MON OVER HERE! THERE'S SOMEONE I WANT YOU TO MEET!



AFTER AN UNEVENTFUL NIGHT, A MILE FROM THE MINE...



LOOK AT 'EM. ALL THIS COUNTRY, BUT WHAT THEY THINK ABOUT IS THEIR SHOVELS.

WE DO WHAT WE HAVE TO, TENREC. NOT EVERYONE CAN AFFORD YOUR LOFTY VIEWPOINT.

STILL SORE ABOUT CLOUGH, HUH?



WELL, ONE OF THESE JOKERS TOOK ON SOME WORK ABOVE GROUND. BUT HE BOTCHED THE JOB AND NOW TWO MEN ARE DEAD AND I HAVE TO OFF SOME POOR, DUMB SLITHER.

BEST THEY STICK TO THEIR SHOVELS.



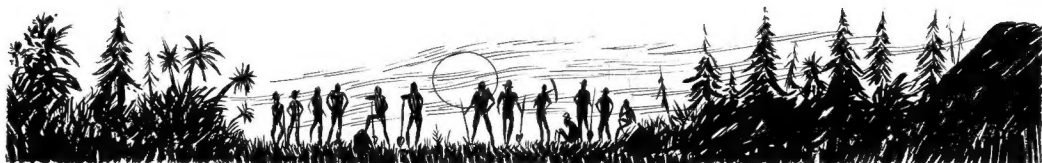
HERE'S WHERE WE'LL DIG, MUSTAPHA.

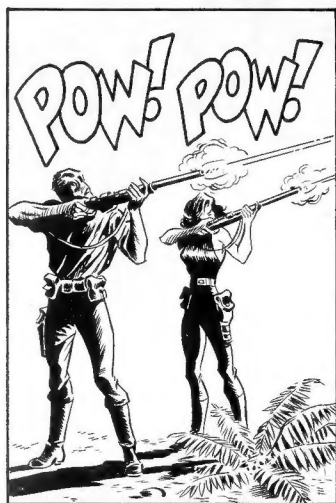


HE USES THIS PASS ALL THE TIME.

C'MON, MEN! FIFTEEN FEET DOWN BY SUNSET!

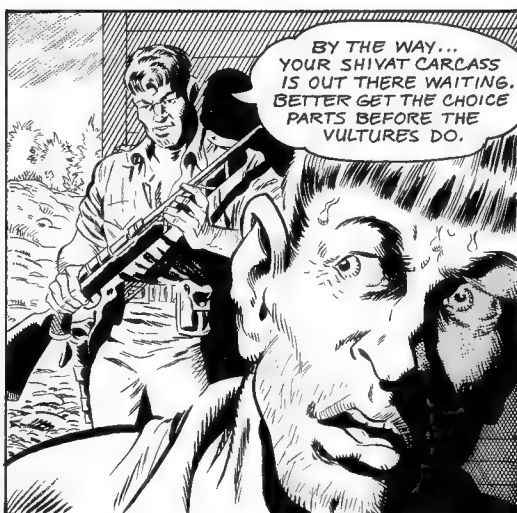












IT NEVER CEASES TO
AMAZE ME...



"PEOPLE DON'T NOTICE HOW
THINGS SEEM TO ALWAYS
BALANCE OUT."



TAKE STRUNK... I'M
SURE HE STILL FEELS NO
RESPONSIBILITY FOR THOSE
TWO MINERS...



"HE CERTAINLY DOESN'T
REGRET BLINDING THE
SHIVAT."



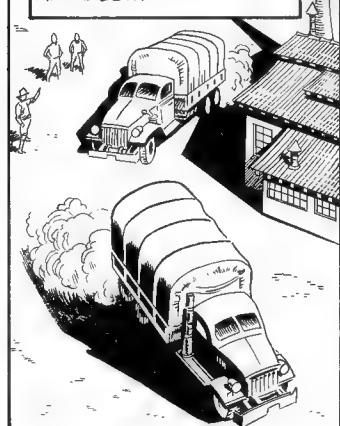
NO, STRUNK HAS NEVER
FELT THE BALANCE...



"AND, ON A MORE
PRACTICAL LEVEL..."



"HE NEVER LEARNED THAT
SHIVATS ARE SOCIAL
ANIMALS..."



"... THAT THEY'RE CAPABLE
OF LOYALTY..."

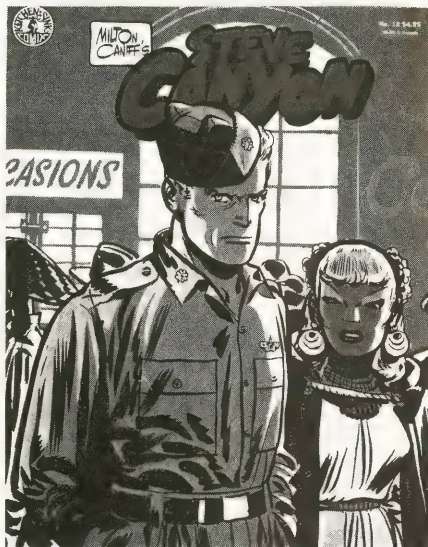
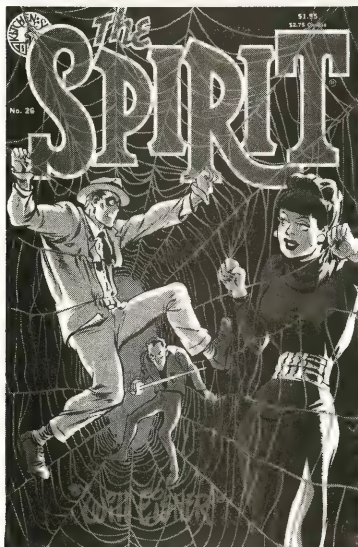


"... THAT THEY MATE FOR LIFE."



THE END

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Pictured below is the third issue
cover of *Alien Fire*, by Eric
Vincent and Anthony F. Smith.
Is *Alien Fire* the best research-
ed and most action packed
science fiction story in comics
history? Read it and find out!



MAMMOTH PITFALL!

SOMETIMES A NEW IDEA CAN BE A GOOD THING. SOMETIMES, IF PUT TO THE TEST AT THE WRONG TIME, AN IDEA CAN RESULT IN DISASTER! THE SAME CAN BE SAID OF YOUR ACTIONS... SOMETIMES WHAT ONCE APPEARED FORTUITOUS CAN COME BACK TO HAUNT YOU. IN THE UNFORGIVING XENOZOIC IT MAY EVEN KILL YOU!

IN THE HIGHLANDS WEST OF THE CITY, JACK AND HANNAH SET A TRAP. BUT SOMETIMES THE TRAPPER BECOMES THE TRAPPED!



THAT'S IT! THE LOGS ARE ALL IN PLACE. ALL YOU HAVE TO DO TO SPRING THE FALL IS HIT THE TRIGGER. ALTHOUGH WHY ANYONE WOULD EVEN WANT TO TRY AND CATCH A MAMMOTH ESCAPES ME!

HANNAH THINKS WE MAY BE ABLE TO DOMESTICATE THEM. I HAVE MY DOUBTS...

IF WE CAN, I PROMISE YOU'LL THANK ME. ONE OF THOSE BEASTS CAN CARRY FIVE TIMES AS MUCH AS AN OVERLAND AND CROSS TERRAIN A MACHINE NEVER COULD.

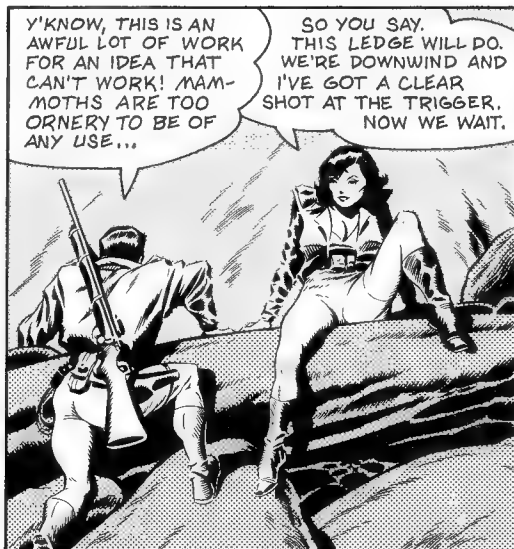


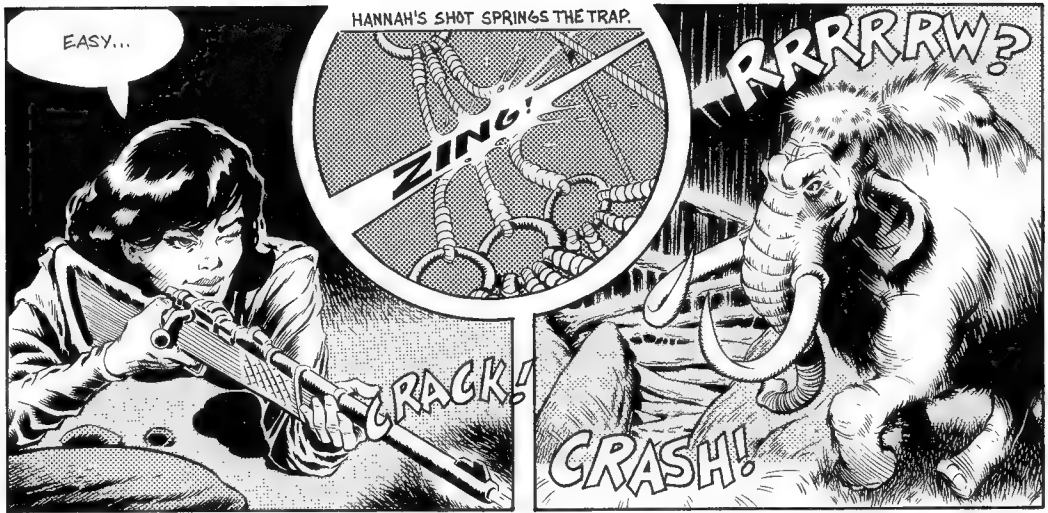
BUT FOR STARTERS I NEED TO OBSERVE ONE IN CAPTIVITY.

WHATEVER! WE'RE GOING TO RETURN TO THE HUNT! WE'LL SEE YOU SOON- AND BE CAREFUL! YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT YOU MIGHT RUN INTO OUT HERE.

WILL DO!









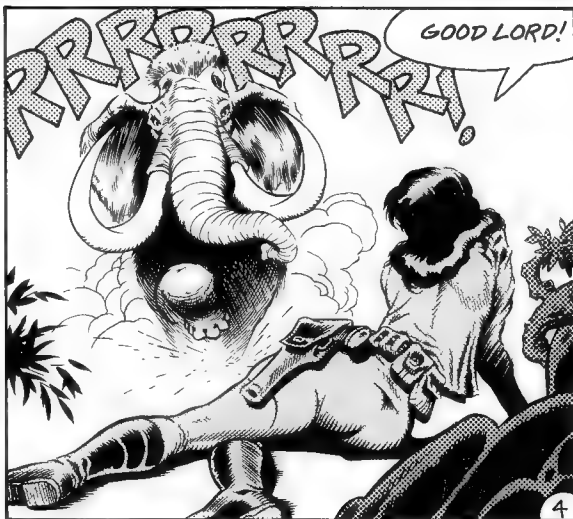
WELL, WELL! WE MEET AT LAST, TENREC. WRENCH TERHUNE WAS MY BROTHER! YOU OUGHTTA REMEMBER HIM-- YOU KILLED HIM LIKE A DOG! WHAT GOES AROUND COMES AROUND!

BY THE WAY, THEY CALL ME HAMMER!

YOU CAN STOP PLAYIN' POSSUM NOW! I KNOW YOU'RE TOUGHER THAN THAT! YOUR LEG'S MASHED UP PRETTY BAD, THOUGH. STILL, YOU'RE A HELLUVA LOT BETTER OFF THAN YOUR RIDER IS DOWN BELOW...



MY GOD, JACK MUST BE IN SOME UGLY TROUBLE! WHAT HAPPENED?



GOOD LORD!

YOU AIN'T GONNA BE NEEDIN' YOUR HEAT, TENREC. MUCH AS IT MAY SURPRISE YOU, I'M NOT GOING THROUGH ALL THIS TROUBLE FOR REVENGE! IT'S YOUR WHEELS I WANT...

HEY, SOUNDS LIKE BIG BOY DOWN THERE HAS FOUND A GIRLFRIEND!



TROUBLE IS, I DON'T KNOW HOW TO DRIVE AN OVERLAND. THAT'S WHY YOU'RE WORTH MORE TO ME ALIVE. WELL THERE'S MY LITTLE BEAUTY NOW! LET'S... HEY!



JACK STRIKES...

BOP!

...AND GRABS TERNHUNE'S SPARE PISTOL!



OH... DON'T WASTE YOUR TIME, TENREC! I RAN OUT OF AMMO FOR THE REVOLVER LONG AGO. COULDN'T BEAR TO GET RID OF HER, THOUGH ... ALWAYS KNEW SHE'D COME IN HANDY SOMEDAY! HAR, HAR!



NOW, NOW! YOU'RE NOT GONNA GET FAR ON A BUM LEG!



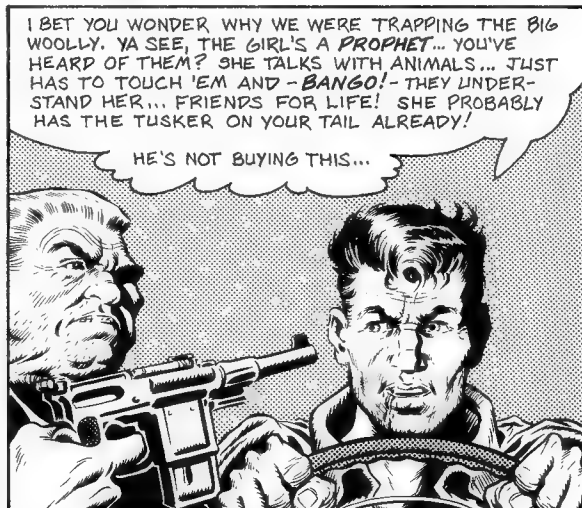
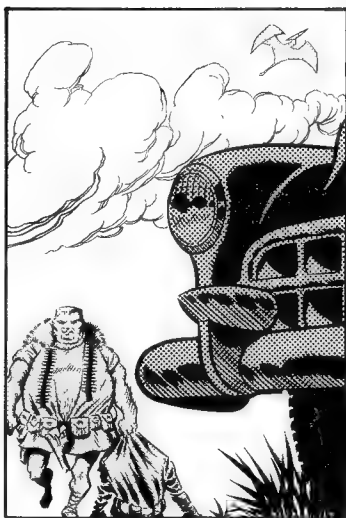
END OF THE LINE, TENREC!



BUT BEFORE WE GET BACK TO THE BUSINESS AT HAND, I THINK YOU NEED TO LEARN A LESSON!











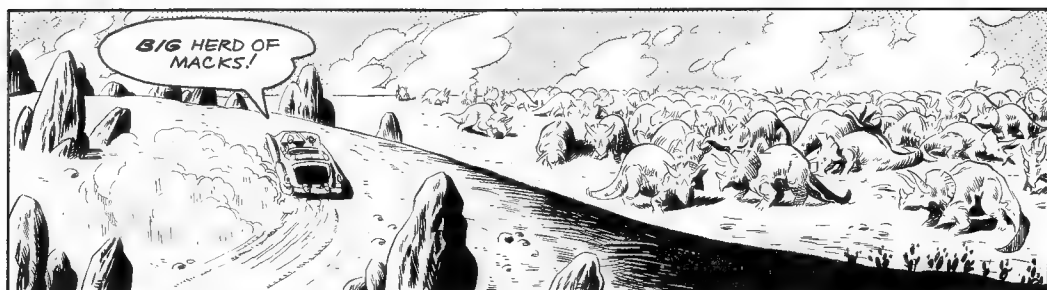
THE RULES OF THE GAME













OH, COME ON, JACK... LET ME DRIVE!

NOT NOW. THERE'S ONE HELLUVA STORM BREWING IN THE WEST.



WHEN ONE OF THEM COMES **TEARING** ACROSS THE FLATS, LOOK OUT! THE ARROYOS FLOOD FASTER'N YOU'D IMAGINE POSSIBLE. WE GOTTA HURRY BACK.



ARE YOU SAYING THE STORM MOVES FASTER THAN THE CADILLAC?

I DON'T PLAN ON FINDING OUT.



C'MON, JACK! LET'S SEE JUST HOW GOOD IT IS! LET THE STORM PULL EVEN! IT'LL BE A STRAIGHT-LINE RACE BACK TO THE GARAGE!



YOU'RE CRAZY! I DON'T TEMPT FATE FOR CHEAP THRILLS!

WE'RE TURNING BACK NOW.



WAIT! I WONDER WHY EVERYONE THINKS YOU'RE SUCH A BIG MAN?



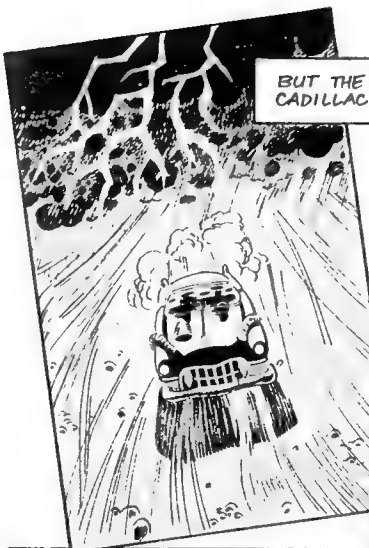
C'MON... DON'T YOU WANT TO SEE WHAT YOUR PRIDE AND JOY CAN DO?



YOU DON'T BELIEVE YOU CAN BEAT IT, DO YOU?



BUT THE STORM INEXORABLY GAINS ON THE STRAINING CADILLAC. JACK CURSES HIMSELF FOR A FOOL...



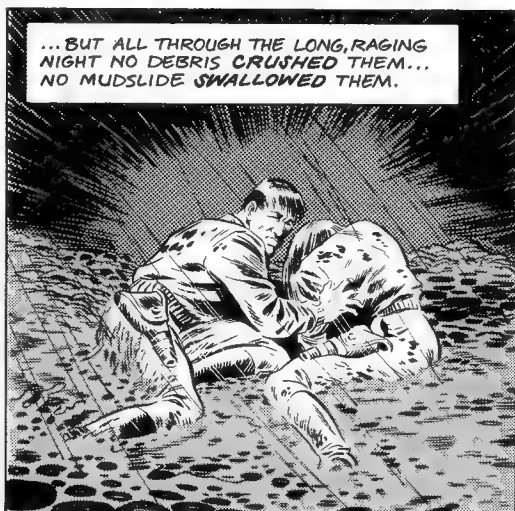
...AND THEN IT IS UPON THEM!



VISIBILITY DROPS TO ZERO AND THE MAD CONTEST IS SUDDENLY OVER.







XENOZOIC EXPRESS

TOO HOT TO HANDLE!

Xenozoic Tales is nice—very nice. All the copies of your comic sold out at the local comics store within fifteen minutes of arrival; this as the shipment was being sorted on the counter. *Xenozoic Tales* never even reached the stands!

Xenozoic Tales pays wonderful homage to the classic comes of the 1950s. It does so not just in the images themselves, but with an excitingly eclectic art style that reminds one of the artistic giants who worked for EC during that decade. And what '50s comic would be complete without dinosaurs? *Xenozoic Tales* achieves the gestalt of an earlier decade, however, without being even slightly derivative. Good luck!

Charles Van Meter

PO Box 761, Greer SC 29652

Thanks. It's good to know that XENOZOIC TALES is receiving a pretty darn good reception, not only in Greer but in other places as well. Retailers (and single copy buyers) should remember that if they run out, their distributors should have a supply in back stock. If the distributors don't have them, we still have a limited supply of XENOZOIC TALES No. 1 left.

TOOK CHANCE, GLAD HE DID

I read a lot of comics, but I rarely find the time to write letters of comment. I'm making an exception for *Xenozoic Tales*, mainly because I enjoyed it a lot more than I thought I would.

When I spotted the book, I took a chance on it solely because of the art, which is something I rarely do, but at first glance (second glance, too), your style showed a heavy influence from Wally Wood, one of my all-time favorites, with (maybe?) a touch of Rand Holmes thrown in for good measure. Both are fine by me. This art style (I won't say "Wood's style" because I don't mean to suggest you're a "clone" artist) works well for both of the more striking subjects in the book, namely dinosaurs and beautiful women.

I'm glad that you've decided to showcase "good girl art" rather than use the direct market to flash "cartoon boobs" all over the place. Although my own tastes run the gamut from Golden Age *Jungle Comics* to the undergrounds, I think you've a better chance of achieving a wider circulation if you avoid a "mature readers" advisory. The industry is becoming more and more paranoid lately, and with the current negative feelings concerning the black and whites, we need all the help we can

get! As a writer, I'm adamantly opposed to censorship of any kind, but to my mind that doesn't necessarily mean that creators should operate without a bit of self-restraint!

Sorry I got off the track. I was about to compliment you on the storyline. First of all, I like the occasional use of the shorter, two or three stories per issue format, partly because it reminds me of the days of my youth when most comics operated with the same format, and partly because I feel I'm getting more stories for my money. Too many writers feel that they absolutely cannot tell a good story in less than twenty pages. They should read more stuff by Will Eisner. The mix here of humans and dinosaurs has always been a cute idea, but your treatment was a bit better than some others I've seen. "The Opportunists" had a nice twist to it, and it was nice to see that Hannah was chosen ambassador for something other than her bust size. "Law of the Land" was a bit grittier, but I found Tenrec's treatment of the situation to be fair under the circumstances. I hope Hannah can live with it as well as I can, especially since the earlier flash of sparks between her and Jack promised—or at least implied—something for the future.

Good luck with the title. I'll be anxiously awaiting issue 2, and hope you'll stick to your bi-monthly schedule.

David M. Lynch

Southbridge MA 01550

Will Eisner is, in fact, a storytelling influence of Mark Schultz's, as is Milton Caniff. While XT is an "all ages" title, it wasn't specifically planned that way, but rather grew out of Schultz's influences from the above gentlemen. While never explicit in their more classic work, both Eisner and Caniff deal with love and sex in a straightforward manner and do not shrink from using it when a story calls for it. The format of XT also allows Schultz to provide background for his bizarre world within the frame of the short story, and does not require the reader to have every issue from No. 1 to make sense of the thing. Not that we'd mind if readers, through their own good taste, followed each issue avidly. It may happen that longer stories will be published in XT, but the intention is to make them self-contained. David Lynch has written stories for MAN FROM U.N.C.L.E. and THE BIRD, by the way.

IMPRESSIVE ISSUE

The first issue of *Xenozoic Tales* was impressive indeed! These stories truly deserve the title of *tales*: tight plots, wide range of characterization, and most important of all, boundless adventure in plausible surroundings. The panorama of human

expression provided by Mark Schultz makes this comic a joy to read. And let's not forget the dinosaurs! Yeah! The revelation of Hermes' identity was a real hoot, especially when coupled with his sniffing Jack's crotch in "An Archipelago of Stone." All I can say is: this was one killer issue, another gem in the Kitchen Sink crown.

Greg Hohnholt

338 Pitcairn Rd., Bricktown NJ 08723

NOT PATRONIZING

I just read the first issue of *Xenozoic Tales*, and I liked it quite a bit. Among the things I particularly liked were:

- 1) The clever title, which first attracted me to the book.
- 2) The art, which, as is regrettably not the case for the offerings from many publishers, looks good reproduced in black and white.
- 3) The setting in which the stories took place, so complex and meticulously constructed that it pays to hunt for details in it. For example, I noticed that all of the animals I could identify lived, if not at the same time, at least approximately in the same place: North America. (Actually, I don't know about the Mosasaurs, but I imagine ocean-going lizards could reach just about any continent.)
- 4) The overall style of the book, which doesn't patronize readers—no cute footnotes defining potentially unfamiliar terms or putting names to the exotic fauna.

However, as much as I enjoy not being patronized, the first issue left me with a couple of questions. I had no trouble identifying the Titanotheres and Parasaurolophuses in the third story, and I'm willing to be someone else's life that the head-chomper in the first story was one of the smaller species of Allosaurus, but what were those Rock Hoppers that Clough slaughtered toward the end of the book? I was tempted to guess Coelophysis, but I think the body is too heavy and the neck too short. Also, so I can appreciate what is no doubt a brilliantly evocative description in the opening caption, what in heaven's name is a stromatolite?

Paul Emrath

5075 N. 83rd St., Milwaukee WI 53218

Stromatolites are structures formed by blue-green algae, the oldest known form of life on Earth and the organism to first "discover" photosynthesis three billion years ago. From the Audubon Society's "Field Guide to North American Fossils": "Stromatolites begin to grow when a layer of filaments of blue-green

XENOZOIC EXPRESS

algae binds sediment together to form a felt-like mat. The algae also deposits calcium carbonate over the mat. The filaments growing through the mat form a new layer that in turn binds more sediment." Survivors of this living structure occur off western Australia in our present world. As for the dinosaur, it is an artistic version of a possible ancestor of Coelophysis. Finally, while all the saurians and animals depicted did indeed exist in North America, it is not necessarily true that XT will be bound by the laws of place (and certainly not time). It is Schultz's plan to have animals from different eras and possibly different regions co-exist in one biosphere. That doesn't mean that anything goes. In any one region in this system, a chief predator might prey on animals from another era—but as the name implies, there would only be one "chief predator." In other words, we won't be faced with the vexing problem of who's tougher, a Tyrannosaurus or a sabre-toothed tiger? Naturally, the human species will always enter this equation, which will probably keep the whole thing interesting. Glad you enjoyed the first issue; hope you stick around for more.

TWILIGHT ZONE OF COMICS

I feel like I just read a cross between a Dave Stevens story and a Wally Wood EC! Extremely wacky! I look forward to seeing more of this future...and your rich detail in depicting it. Good luck.

Ed Catto

Newton MA

WEAK STRUCTURE?

As I read No. 1, a voice in the back of my mind screamed "1950s! 1950s!" My mind sometimes plays strange tricks on me, but this time it seemed to make a weird sort of sense. Even though it is set in the future, the style in this mag is reminiscent of '50s sci-fi. The name "Wally Wood" seems to come to mind, too. And I like it! It's clean and crisp. Plus, the "nostalgic" feel gives it a homey, familiar aura that helps to offset the more fantastical aspects of it, thus lending it a measure of believability and involvement.

I only have one issue from which to judge things, but so far it appears to me that the society portrayed here is highly unlikely to exist in 500 years or so. Things appear very much like they are in the 20th century as far as fashions and technology are concerned. Surely, if the Earth had been through such catastrophic times as posited here, society and its trapping would be drastically changed. For instance, the skyscrapers seem relatively intact above the water line, and I think erosion and other forces of nature would have had some drastic effects over the centuries. All of this is of no great importance, at

least so far. This is not a story of *how* society got into its current situation, but rather *what* will happen now that this situation exists. However, weak foundations can make for a weak structure! Without a solid rationale for the state of the society, it may become less viable and believable as time goes on. Of course, I realize that you may not have revealed your full hand yet concerning the whys and wherefores of the situation.

I found the stories themselves to be quite well done. They were fast-paced, witty and involving. A real flair for handling characters is displayed. It was a very promising start to what promises to be an engaging series. The combination of weird adventure and deftly handled characters could be a potent one!

Yes, it's adventure and intrigue in a land of wondrous chaos! Weird beasts and fierce natural conditions batter a group of hardy and determined humans, last survivors of a once-proud people! Gosh, sort of sounds like...like a '50s sci-fi flick, doesn't it? Yeah, *that's* the ticket!...

"T.M. Maple"

Box 1272, Station B, Weston, Ontario Canada

COMICS' MYSTERY MAN

I just finished *Xenozoic Tales* No. 1 and I loved it. I saw the preview in *Death Rattle* No. 8, and this issue lived up to my expectations and then some.

Artist / writer Mark Schultz is a real find—where did he come from? Did he study with Wally Wood, or what? You might do a bio of him in a future issue; I know I'd be interested.

Well, thanks for another great comic and keep 'em coming. That cover was too great.

F. Hannon

Boston MA

Mark Schultz is new to comics but not to the art field, working up to this time in commercial and advertising art and illustration. Although strongly influenced by Wood, he never met the man. Schultz counts Will Eisner, Milton Caniff and Harvey Kurtzman as three other strong influences, especially in a story sense. Strangely enough, Kitchen Sink Press publishes all three, and this led Schultz to submit work to us last year for possible inclusion in *DEATH RATTLE*. That story was "Mammoth Pitfall," the second story in *XENOZOIC TALES* No. 2, this issue. We didn't think that particular effort was right for *DEATH RATTLE* but we were impressed with his work and asked for another story. His second submission was "Xenozoic!," printed in *DEATH RATTLE* 8 (copies of which are still available on the market, or for \$2.50

from us), which introduced Jack and Hannah. One thing led to another, and he now has his own series. Incidentally, two of the best stories in this issue were inked by Steve Stiles, who DID work with Wally Wood at one time. In future issues, Steve will be pencilling and inking one story per issue from a Schultz script, while Mark writes, pencils and inks the remainder, the majority, of the issue. Finally, the following letters are in response to Schultz's "Xenozoic" from *DEATH RATTLE* No. 8.

MUCH IMPRESSED

I was very much impressed by Mark Schultz's "Xenozoic!" [in *Death Rattle* 8]. What a great scene at the end! It reminded me of something Clark Ashton-Smith might have concocted. I am looking forward to seeing more of this great lurid horror adventure.

Dal Lazlo

N2046 Hwy BB, Reeseville WI 53579

Clark Ashton-Smith was a poet who wrote short stories for pulp magazines like *WEIRD TALES*. His stories often put humans and animals through strange transformations. As a side note, "lurid horror" is not the governing basis of *XENOZOIC TALES*, although it might show up now and then. However, we like the words "great adventure."

NOT LAZY

When I saw Mark Schultz's work in *Death Rattle* 8, I had to write! I don't make a habit of writing artists. The only others have been Peter Bagge [*Weird, Neat Stuff*] and Will Eisner. My first love has always been science fiction (and horror) and I'm a big EC nut. I see a good smack of Wally Wood and Joe Orlando in "Xenozoic!"

Schultz really has a nice firm style and I'm glad it was printed in black and white; it shows the quality pen and brush work. The cover, though, with its coloring, looked exactly like an EC cover. Schultz has really impressed my ass! The variety of fauna reminded me of reading an Al Williamson (the best!) story. Schultz is not lazy, and I, for one, appreciate it!

About the writing, again I must say Schultz reminds me of an EC man. Quality writing, well-paced action, a good plot, and dialogue, and a great twist at the end. Good stuff!

I can't wait for *Xenozoic Tales*. I've cut way back on my alternative titles, but that's one I'll definitely pick up! If Schultz keeps it up, he *will* be up there with the artists I mentioned before. I'm dead serious.

Don Bishop

1022 N. Magnolia Dr., Tallahassee FL 32308

Next Issue:

Mark Schultz's *Xenozoic Tales* explores a world of the future in which time has gone berserk.

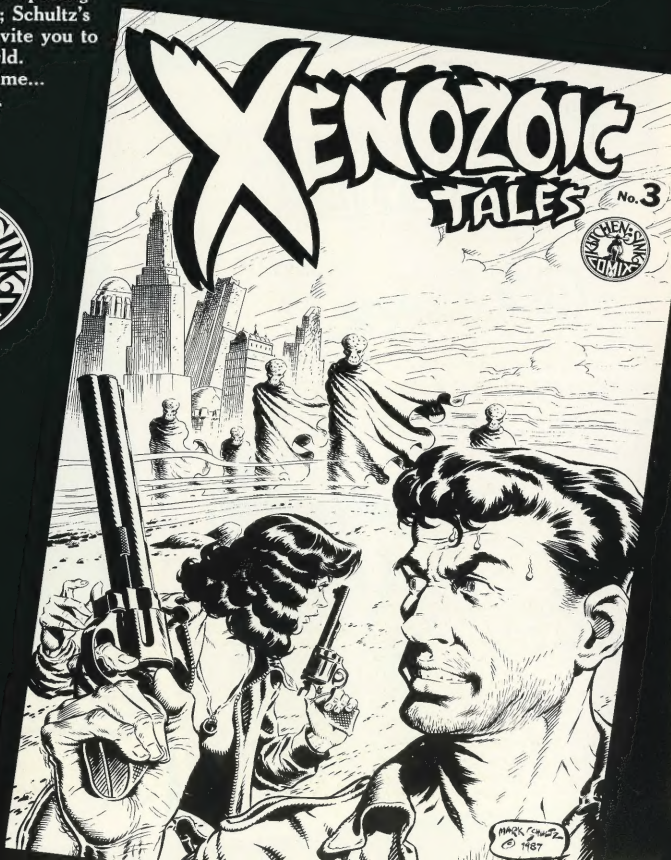
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